Convicted murderess Mrs. Elizabeth Duncan roars with laughter as George Satriano, one of her dozen husbands, convulses court during his testimony. Telling how he and Mrs. Duncan decided to trade in their Chevrolet on a Cadillac, he suddenly started laughing and couldn't go on. The judge tittered, lawyers laughed and Mrs. Duncan roared.—(AP Photofax)

★ ★ ★

Ex-Husband Says:

Mrs. Duncan Cast Spell Over People

VENTURA, Calif. (UPI)—Stephen Gillis, 31-year-old ex-marine lieutenant and one of Elizabeth Duncan's former husbands, said yesterday the defendant casts "a sort of spell" over people.

Gillis, a good-looking young man with a crew cut, said he didn't know why he married the 54-year-old defendant in 1954. The marriage was later annulled.

Gilils testified during the hearing to determine whether Mrs. Duncan will pay with her life for the slaying of her Canadian-born pregnant daughter-in-law.

Mrs. Duncan earlier denied she ever hired a man to throw acid at another former spouse, George Satriano, and said she still "loved him very much." But Mrs. Duncan testified their marriage broke up in a dispute over Satriano buying a hubcap for the family Cadillac.

"She had sort of a spell over everyone she met," Gillis said of Mrs. Duncan under cross-examination. "Anything she said people would believe.

"I don't know why I married her—it was sort of a whirlwind deal."

"Five hours after the marriage, I wanted it dissolved—maybe five minutes after the marriage," Gillis said.

He said he went into the marine corps and while there Mrs. Duncan notified his commanding officer that she was pregnant and destitute.

Gustafson called Dr. Edward J. Buckley, a San Francisco physician, who said Mrs. Duncan brought a young woman, whom she called Elizabeth Gillis, to his office in 1955 for an examination. The woman was pregnant. Later, the doctor said, Mrs. Duncan came back to his office and asked him for a statement the young woman was pregnant.

The penalty hearing is likely to last until Friday.

INDIA'S MAIL

India now has about 62,000 post offices, compared with 20,000 in 1948.

$13,000 First Surplus in 15 Years

Jubilee in the Black

Royal Jubilee Hospital broke through into the black last year for the first time in 15 years with a $13,000 surplus the annual report disclosed yesterday.

The report showed a $2,034 deficit, but when a $15,000 payment from the B.C. Hospital Insurance Service was added, the hospital was solidly in the black.

Deficit in 1957 was $30,541, not considered unusual.

Operating expenditure for 1958 was $3,056,326, compared with $2,886,356 the previous year.

The past year, the annual report said, was the hospital's busiest year, "with a significant increase shown in the activities of most of the departments of the hospital.

"Many of our facilities have been strained to the utmost and it is obvious that the hospital must expand if it is to meet the demands of the community for hospital services.

"The average occupancy of our beds throughout the year was 90 per cent, but the occupancy of our medical and surgical beds was in excess of 97 per cent and there were many times when the admission of new patients was denied for cases of emergency.

"The record shows that there was an increase of over 5,800 patient-days as compared with the year 1957."

Other highlights:

Staff increased 2.3 per cent while patient-days increased 16 per cent, and "our employees have met this challenge in a wonderful manner and we very much appreciate their co-operation during this trying period when our facilities have been so heavily taxed."

Seventy-two children are attending the Cerebral Palsy clinic for instruction each day and "the space is most inadequate . . . We will be unable to give them more space until our new wing is completed."

New building will be "a very beautiful and efficient unit which will contain 190 modern beds and many other services . . . It is our hope that the actual construction will commence in 1959."

Average per-day cost of patient care in 1958 was within the rate established by the B.C. Hospital Insurance Service, and the large increase in volume was an important factor in minimizing the per-day cost.

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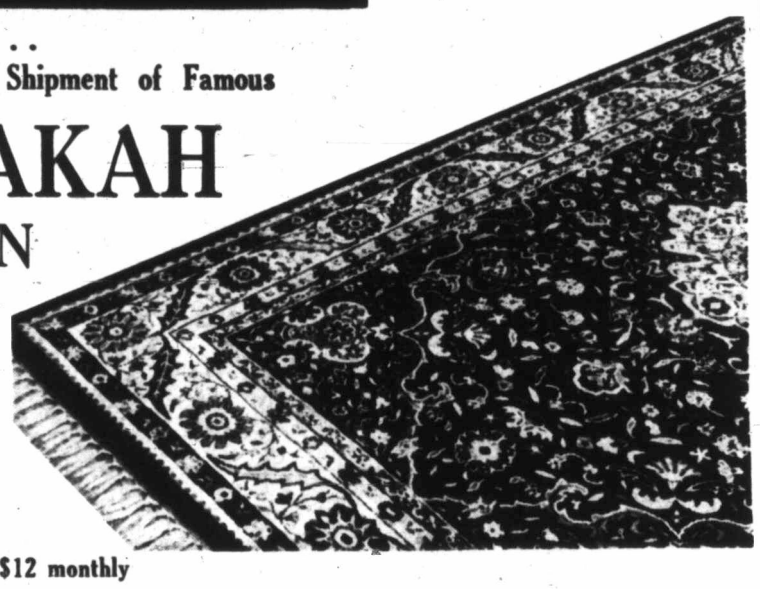

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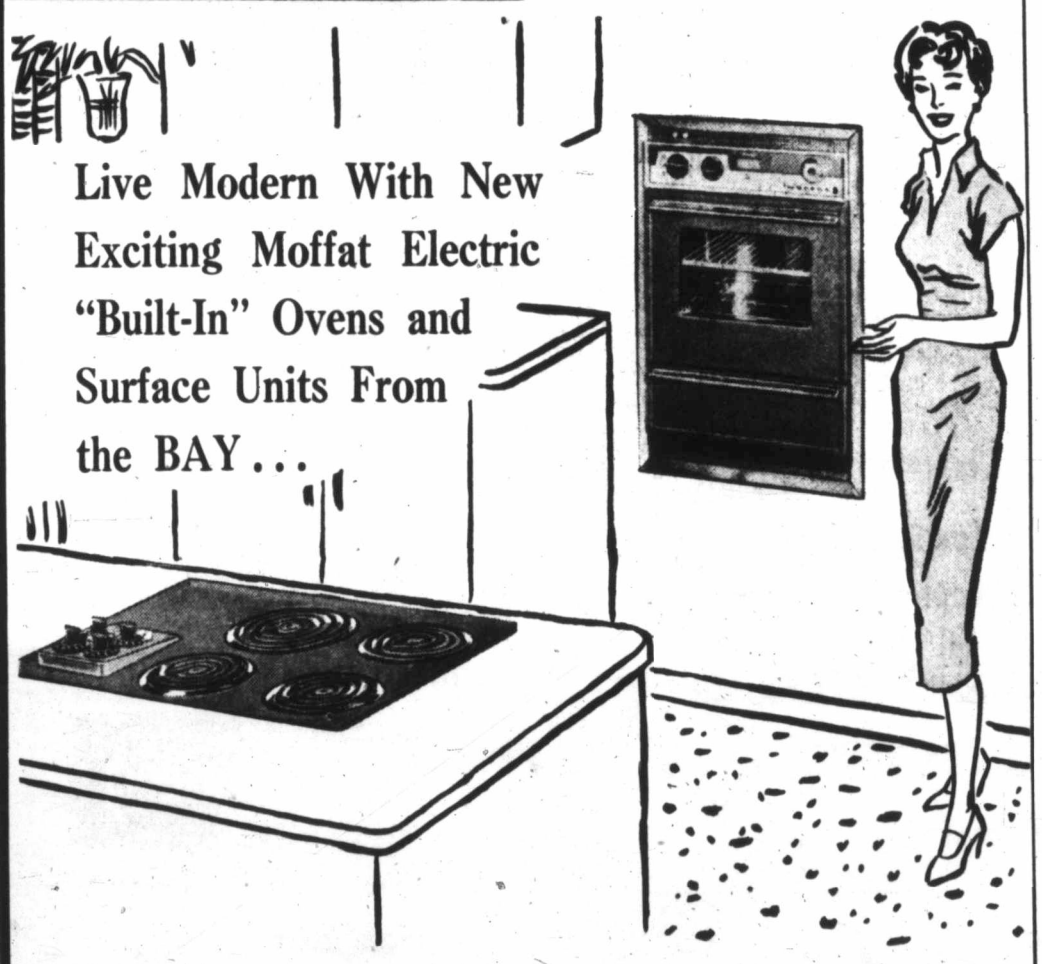

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